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Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to forward herewith the following documents of the African Union:

(a) Decisions, declarations and resolution adopted by the Assembly of the African Union, at its eleventh ordinary session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008 (see annex I);

(b) Decisions adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its thirteenth ordinary session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 24 to 28 June 2008 (annex II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (a).

(*Signed*) Augustine P. **Mahiga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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DECISIONS AND DECLARATION

Annex I to the letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Decisions, declarations and resolution adopted by the African Union at its eleventh ordinary session

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DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/2(XI)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;

2. **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the progress made to date. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** all parties concerned to redouble efforts and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to support the ongoing processes and mobilize the support of the international community to that effect;

3. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and **REQUESTS** the Commission to pursue the efforts being deployed, particularly with respect to the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF);

4. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the success of the operation "Democracy in the Comoros", which enabled the Government of the Union of the Comoros to re-establish its authority in Anjouan, and **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Governments of Tanzania and the Sudan, as well as Libya and Senegal, which kindly provided their support to the Government of the Comoros, in implementation of Decision Assembly/Dec.186 (X) adopted at the 10th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 31 January to 2 February 2008.

5. **ALSO EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the countries of the region, under the coordination of the Republic of South Africa, which spared no effort to come to the aid of Comoros and support the reconciliation efforts in the Archipelago. The Assembly **THANKS** the AU partners for their support. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the holding in Anjouan, on 15 and 29 June 2008, of elections which made it possible to designate the new President of the Autonomous Island of Anjouan;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission and AU Member States to continue to support efforts aimed at consolidating the progress made to date in the Comoros, including the rationalization of current institutional arrangements and the improvement of governance, as well as the socio-economic recovery of the Archipelago and the war on poverty;

7. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the Agreements reached to resolve the electoral crisis in Kenya and the establishment the coalition Government, in particular the National Accord and Reconciliation Act and the Agreement on the Principles of Partnership of the coalition Government. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the work done by President John Kufour of Ghana, the Panel of Eminent African Personalities led by Kofi Annan, and including Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of Tanzania and Mrs. Graça Machel, as well as the critical role played by the Chairperson of the AU, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in his capacity as Chairperson of the East African Community, in assisting the parties to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly

ACKNOWLEDGES the goodwill shown so far in implementing these Agreements and **CALLS ON** all parties to fully implement all aspects of the Agreements;

8. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the promotion of an all-inclusive political process in Somalia, in particular the conclusion, on 9 June 2008, in Djibouti, of an Agreement between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), under the auspices of the United Nations, with the support of the AU, other regional organizations and international partners. The Assembly **STRONGLY URGES** all Somali stakeholders to join this process and commit themselves to the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict in Somalia. The Assembly **CONDEMNS** all attempts aimed at undermining the ongoing peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;

9. **CALLS UPON** the international community to lend increased support to the efforts aimed at bringing to a definite end the violence that has plagued Somalia for about two decades, including the early deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation that would take over from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia in view of ;

10. **REITERATES ITS APPRECIATION** for the work done by the AMISOM and **APPEALS** to the Member States and AU partners to provide increased support to the Mission to enable it successfully carry out its mandate;

11. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the situation prevailing at the border between Djibouti and Eritrea, and the tension in the relations between the two countries.[1] The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** Eritrea's military action against Djibouti in Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island and **DEMANDS** that Eritrea withdraws immediately and unconditionally from the Djiboutian territories it occupies and, **REITERATES** the obligation to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States, and **CALLS FOR** the return to the situation prevailing at the common border between the two countries before the current tension, including the immediate withdrawal of all the forces positioned there since 4 February 2008;

12. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the initiatives taken by the PSC and the Commission to facilitate the resolution of this crisis, including the dispatching by the Commission of a mission to Djibouti, from 5 to 9 June 2008, and **EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION** to the Djiboutian authorities for cooperating with the mission and their constant willingness to enter into dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution to the crisis;

13. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the refusal of the Eritrean authorities to receive the mission from the Commission and **URGENTLY APPEALS** to them to extend their full cooperation to the efforts deployed by the AU towards a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the support provided by the United Nations Security Council to the AU efforts, as expressed in its Presidential Statement of 12 June 2008;

14. **WELCOMES AND EXPRESSES SUPPORT** to the decision of the 12th IGAD Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14 June 2008 on the Eritrea and Djibouti conflict. The Assembly NOTES the decision taken by the IGAD Summit by recognizing the implications of Eritrea's absence from IGAD for regional peace, security and development, and the consequent designation of a Ministerial Committee to engage Eritrea on the possibility of reconsidering her decision to suspend IGAD membership;

[1] Reservation entered by the State of Eritrea.

15. **WELCOMES** the agreement reached by the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), on 8 June 2008, on a "Roadmap for the return of IDPs and Implementation of the Abeyi Protocol", which will pave the way towards the resolution of the Abeyi impasse, and **URGES** the parties to intensify their efforts with a view to addressing all the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA. The Assembly **NOTES** the steps taken by the Commission in support of the implementation of the CPA, and **REQUESTS** that immediate steps be taken for the full operationalization of the Liaison Office in Khartoum with an Office in Juba. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the AU Ministerial Committee for Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the Sudan to pursue and intensify its efforts;

16. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the continued lack of progress in the political process in Darfur, and **URGES** the parties to extend full cooperation to the joint AU-UN Mediation so that substantive negotiations can begin in earnest. The Assembly **ALSO EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the continued violence in Darfur and its impact on the civilian population. The Assembly **STRESSES** the need for continued efforts towards the full deployment of UNAMID;

17. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the continued tensions between Chad and the Sudan and **CALLS** for renewed efforts to implement the Dakar agreement and previous agreements between the two countries;

18. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the efforts deployed by the Central African Government in the promotion of the Inclusive Political Dialogue. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the conclusion of the preparatory work for the said Dialogue and **URGES** all the parties concerned to participate in it in a constructive manner. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the signing in Libreville on 21 June 2008, of the Comprehensive Ceasefire and Peace Agreement between the Government and the People's Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD) and the Union for Rally of Democratic Forces (UFDR). The Assembly **URGES** the Democratic Front for the People of Central Africa (FDPC) to sign the said Agreement, and **TAKES NOTE** of the decision of the ECCAS Summit to transfer the management of the FOMUC from CEMAC to ECCAS, and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to all the development partners for their constant support and their commitment alongside the Central African authorities and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue and strengthen their support to the consolidation of peace and stability in the CAR;

19. **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed towards the implementation of the Joint Communiqué signed in Nairobi, on 9 November 2007 by the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwandan Governments, as well as the work achieved by the Joint Monitoring Group established by the Tripartite+ Summit held in Addis Ababa on 5 December 2007. Furthermore, the Assembly **URGES** the Congolese parties to comply with the Goma Statements of Commitment, to strictly implement them with a view to accelerating the re-establishment of State authority in the Kivus, and promote the socio-economic development of the two provinces;

20. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the conclusion, in Bujumbura on 26 May 2008, by the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu/FNL, of a Joint Declaration on the Cessations of Hostilities, which re-launches the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006. The Assembly **APPEALS** to Member States and AU partners to provide all the necessary support to the ongoing efforts, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace in Burundi;

21. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the progress being made in the post-conflict reconstruction and peace building efforts in Liberia, and **ENCOURAGES** the larger international community to continue to support the efforts of the Liberian Government;

22. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the progress made in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and **WELCOMES**, in particularly, the measures taken, on a consensual basis, to hold the presidential elections on 30 November 2008. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to President Blaise Campaoré of Burkina Faso, the current Chairperson of ECOWAS, and Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Direct Dialogue. The Assembly **URGES** all the Ivorian parties to maintain and consolidate the dynamics of peace prevailing in the country since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement on 4 March 2007. The Assembly **CALLS ON** the international community to continue to accompany and support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire;

23. **WELCOMES** the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 7 April 2008 on the relationship between the UN and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Republic of South Africa for the sustained efforts that it has made in following up on the Assembly's decision of January 2007 for the funding of AU-led peace support operations through UN assessed contributions. The Assembly **ALSO EXPRESSES** appreciation to the other African Members of the Security Council for their support and efforts;

24. **ALSO WELCOMES** the Secretary-General's proposal, endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1809(2008) of 16 April 2008, to set up an African Union-United Nations panel consisting of distinguished persons to consider in-depth the modalities of how to support, including financing, peacekeeping operations undertaken by regional organizations, in particular as related to start-up funding, equipment and logistics, and make concrete recommendations. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to follow up the implementation of this resolution.

Assembly/AU/Dec.194 (XI)

DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS OF THE MAY 2006 ABUJA SPECIAL SUMMIT ON HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (ATM) DOC.ASSEMBLY/AU/4 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Commitments of the May 2006 Abuja Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM);

2. **WELCOMES** the Malaria Initiative launched by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General and the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Malaria; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to work closely with the Envoy in the implementation of the Malaria Elimination Campaign launched by the African Union;

3. **CONCERNED** that HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria remain major development challenges and thus require sustained political will and commitment in order to reverse their impact;

4. **DEPLORES** the high costs of medicines for these diseases, and **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the increasing challenges associated with resistance to the medicines and insecticides;

5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the particular susceptibility of women, children and other vulnerable groups to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;

6. **URGES** Member States to implement their pledge to devote at least fifteen percent (15%) of their national budget to health in order to adequately address health and development, especially HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;

7. **ALSO URGES** Member States to strengthen health systems in the framework of the Africa Health Strategy (2007-2015) as the best approach to promote universal access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria services by 2010;

8. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to strengthen their respective disease surveillance capacities for effective monitoring and evaluation and to prepare progress reports to the AU organs and other constituencies;

9. **CALLS UPON** Regional and International partners to sustain efforts to support Member states in the implementation of the various commitments on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM);

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to promote regional cooperation whilst coordinating and harmonizing follow-up on the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;

11. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with development partners to monitor the implementation of this Decision and to prepare a review report in 2010 as requested by the Special Summit on ATM.

Assembly/AU/Dec.195 (XI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE PROMOTION OF MATERNAL, INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA DOC.ASSEMBLY/AU/6 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the need to implement the Decision adopted by the Banjul Summit in 2006 on a legislation that regulates and respects social life in Africa, and **URGES** Member States to make contributions in this regard;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to intensify its leadership role and keep the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health high on the Continental agenda;

4. **URGES** Member States to take action to institutionalize enquiries into Maternal, Infant and Child deaths in Member States; to this effect periodic reports should be submitted to the Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant partners for assessment and analysis of progress and sharing of best practices;

5. **ENDORSES** the nomination by the Special Session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Health, on 17 May 2008 of Dr M. Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of the Republic of South Africa as Goodwill Ambassador to champion the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health in Africa;

6. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations (UN) Agencies and other International Partners to accelerate actions to improve maternal, infant and child health in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to speed up action for capacity building with the view to strengthening advocacy, resource mobilization, coordination and harmonization, monitoring and evaluation of progress made in the promotion of maternal, infant and child health in Africa;

8. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to develop and disseminate a format to guide Member States with reporting, to enable it to update its statistical data;

9. **REITERATES** its previous Decision, requesting the Commission in collaboration with relevant Partners, to intensify advocacy and coordination efforts towards the attainment of MDGs 4, 5, and 6 in Africa and to submit progress reports to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, in January 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.196 (XI)

DECISION ON THE SINGLE LEGAL INSTRUMENT ON THE MERGER OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/13 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council;

2. **ADOPTS** the Draft Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;

3. **CALLS** on Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights as expeditiously as possible so as to enable the Protocol enter into force and ensure the speedy operationalization of the merged Court.

Assembly/AU/Dec.197 (XI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs) DOC. EX.CL/422(XIII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress report of the Commission on the Negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs);

2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on the EPA Negotiations adopted by the Joint Conference of AU Ministers of Trade and Finance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2008;

3. **REQUESTS** Member States that have had to initial individual Interim EPAs to avoid disruption of their trade with the European Union (EU) after the 31st of December 2007 deadline, to pursue and finalize within their Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Groupings the negotiation and conclusion of full and comprehensive EPAs;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Member States concerned to ensure that the contentious issues in the Interim EPAs that have been identified by the AU Ministers of Trade and Finance are adequately addressed in the negotiations of full and comprehensive EPAs;

5. **URGES** the European Commission not to put pressure on African Governments to ratify the Interim Agreements without taking into account the concerns raised on the contentious issues;

6. **INVITES** the European Commission to honour the commitment made by the Council in Brussels on 27 May 2008 to make EPAs an instrument for the promotion of development ,support to regional integration, and gradual integration of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of States in the world economy, and **URGES** the European Commission to fully reflect this commitment in the negotiation and conclusion of full and comprehensive EPAs;

7. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission , in collaboration with the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the RECs, to accelerate the elaboration of a full EPA template to be used as a guideline by all African countries / groups negotiating full EPAs;

8. **URGES** the European Union to consider providing an alternative trading arrangement, that is World Trade Organisation (WTO) – compatible but not less favourable than the Lome/Cotonou trading regime, to African countries/groups that have not initialled Interim EPAs and may not be in a position to conclude full EPAs;

9. **CALLS ON** the AU Commission and the European Union Commission to facilitate an early convening of the high–level Africa–Europe consultations on EPAs, as agreed in Lisbon during the Second Europe – Africa Summit, held in Portugal , in December 2007;

10. **REQUESTS** African negotiating countries and groups to remain united in their engagement with the European Union Commission on EPAs;

11. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to strengthen its coordination and harmonization of the positions of the countries and groups in the negotiations of full EPAs;

12. **URGES** Member States and the RECs to take full advantage of the European Union Aid for Trade resources.

Assembly/AU/Dec.198 (XI)

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** that at its Inaugural Summit, in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, it had adopted a Declaration on the Implementation of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* [Assembly/AU/Decl. 1 (I) endorsing the Progress Report and Initial Action Plan [AHG/235 (XXXVIII)], encouraging Member States to adopt the *NEPAD* Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex I] and accede to the *African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)* [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II];

2. **RECALLS** that the mandate of the APRM is to encourage Participating States in ensuring that the policies and practices of Participating States conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, and to achieve mutually agreed objectives in socio-economic development contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

3. **NOTES** that twenty-eight (28) Member States have voluntarily acceded to APRM and **INVITES** all Member States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism;

4. **WELCOMES** the important role being played by the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the APRM ("APRM Forum") and the Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM ("APRM Panel");

5. **CALLS UPON** the government of the Republic of South Africa to grant all facilities to APRM for the discharge of its mandate;

6. **DECIDES** that APRM Structures, namely the APRM Forum, the APRM Panel and the APRM Secretariat shall be part of the processes and structures of the African Union;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to negotiate and conclude a host agreement, with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, for APRM with a view to facilitating the discharge of its mandate.

Assembly/AU/Dec.199 (XI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE ABUSE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction pursuant to the recommendation of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 April 2008;

2. **RECALLS** the Johannesburg Declaration of the Pan-African Parliament dated 15 May 2008;

3. **RECOGNIZING** that universal jurisdiction is a principle of International Law whose purpose is to ensure that individuals who commit grave offences such as war crimes and crimes against humanity do not do so with impunity and are brought to justice, which is in line with Article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

4. **NOTING** the Brazzaville statement by the Inter-ministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region dated 22 May 2008;

5. **RESOLVE** as follows:

   (i) The abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction is a development that could endanger International law, order and security;
   (ii) The political nature and abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by judges from some non-African States against African leaders, particularly Rwanda, is a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these States;
   (iii) The abuse and misuse of indictments against African leaders have a destabilizing effect that will negatively impact on the political, social and economic development of States and their ability to conduct international relations;
   (iv) Those warrants shall not be executed in African Union Member States;
   (v) There is need for establishment of an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States.

6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union to table the matter before the United Nations (UN) Security Council and the UN General Assembly for consideration;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to urgently cause a meeting between the AU and European Union (EU) to discuss the matter with a view to finding a lasting solution to this problem and in particular to ensure that those warrants are withdrawn and are not executable in any country;

8. **ALSO REQUESTS** all UN Member States, in particular the EU States, to impose a moratorium on the execution of those warrants until all the legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations.

Assembly/AU/Dec.200 (XI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS DOC. EX.CL/446 (XIII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

2. **ADOPTS** and **AUTHORIZES** in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter), the publication of the 23rd and 24th Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and their Annexes;

3. **COMMENDS** ACHPR for the work accomplished and **URGES** it to pursue and intensify its efforts in this regard;

4. **REITERATES** the need for ACHPR to be provided with adequate resources to remove donor dependence and enable the ACHPR discharge its mandate effectively and independently;

5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Government of the Republic of The Gambia for the efforts deployed in hosting ACHPR for the past 20 years, and **URGES** the Government to provide a permanent headquarter for ACHPR, in line with the Criteria for Hosting AU Organs adopted in July 2005;

6. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to expedite its consideration of the proposed Structure of the Secretariat of ACHPR, with a view to providing it with adequate staff for the effective discharge of its mandate;

7. **URGES** ACHPR to expedite consideration and finalisation of its revised Rules of Procedure, ensuring that these Rules are consistent with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

8. **ENCOURAGES** ACHPR, in collaboration with the AU Commission, to take the necessary steps to have the status of the ACHPR as an Organ of the AU regularized;

9. **REQUESTS** ACHPR to prepare proposals on the honorarium, per diem and other allowances to be paid to the Members of ACHPR, for consideration by the AU Policy Organs;

10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the ACHPR to prepare a Paper on how the African Commission works, with a view to enhancing stakeholders' understanding of its working methods and operational modalities;

11. **TAKES NOTE** of the observations and reservations made by the Arab Republic of Egypt, regarding the shortcomings of the ACHPR in the translation of documents, in interpretation, and in transmitting documents to Member States, due to human and financial resource constraints, which can result in procedural and substantial shortcomings.

12. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the ACHPR to report on the same to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in 2009.

Assembly/AU/Dec.201 (XI)

DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD DOC. EX.CL/450(XIII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following persons as members of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

i).	Mrs. Agnès KABORE	Burkina Faso
ii).	Mr. Adrianirainy RASAMOELY	Madagascar
iii).	Mrs. Maryam UWAIS	Nigeria
iv)	Mr. Cyprien Adébayo YANCLO	Benin

Assembly/AU/Dec.202 (XI)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS DOC. EX.CL/451(XIII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. **DECIDES** to appoint, for a six-year term the following Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

i)	Mrs. Sophia A.B. AKUFFO	Ghana	(6-year term)
ii)	Mr. Githu MUIGAI	Kenya	(6-year term)
iii)	Mr. Joseph Nyamihana MULENGA	Uganda	(6-year term)
iv)	Mr. Bernard Makgabo NGOEPE	South Africa	(6-year term)

Assembly/AU/Dec.203 (XI)

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** the Decision on the First African Union Ministerial Diaspora Conference held in Midrand, South Africa from 16 to 18 November 2007;

2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Commission and the Republic of South Africa in implementing this Decision, and the progress made so far in organizing the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 7 to 11 October 2008;

3. **URGES** the Republic of South Africa and the Commission to continue to collaborate closely in this regard;

4. **WELCOMES** the organization of a Technical Workshop to be held in South Africa from 28 to 30 July 2008, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference, and within the framework of efforts to promote consensus-building in the finalization of the Declaration, Programme of Action and its implementation plan to be adopted at the Diaspora Summit;

5. **REQUESTS** Member States, leaders of the Caribbean Community and the African Diaspora to continue to support and participate actively in the process leading up to the Summit, and the implementation of the Programme of Action to be adopted thereafter;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the process of organizing Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs) continues as part of the Implementation Plan, to include the African Diaspora in the Gulf, the Middle East, Oceania and other parts of the world where they have not been held;

7. **CALLS ON** Member States to provide adequate and necessary resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action arising out of this Summit and the wider Diaspora initiative.

Assembly/AU/Dec.204 (X)

DECISION ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/8 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State on the Reform of the Security Council;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations as the basis of any inter-governmental negotiations;

3. **REQUESTS** the Committee of Ten to address other Reform issues of the United Nations System, and to present a progress Report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

4. **DECIDES TO RENEW** the directive to the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, as stated in the Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.184 (X) of January 2008, relating to their participation in inter-governmental negotiations in New York;

5. **ENDORSES** the decision of the Committee of Ten to meet regularly and requests the African Union Commission to facilitate the meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.205 (X)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NEPAD DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/11 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

2. **ENDORSES** the conclusions of the 18th NEPAD HSGIC Summit;

3. **URGES** the African Union Commission to complete the process of the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer for the NEPAD Secretariat by the next African Union Summit in January 2009 along the lines of the January 2008 AU Assembly decision and **CALLS ON** Member States to encourage their citizens to submit applications for the post;

4. **COMMENDS** the hosting of the NEPAD Review Summit by President Abdoulaye Wade in Dakar, Senegal on 15 April 2008 as well as the initiatives presented by Senegal on the revitalization of the NEPAD programme and **URGES** all Member States to contribute viewpoints on the structure and profile of the new NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Authority;

5. **WELCOMES** the ongoing work of the AU/NEPAD Coordinating Unit on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, particularly the inauguration of the Unit and **DIRECTS** that the Unit should remain guided by the 2003 Maputo AU Assembly Declaration, the conclusions of the Algiers NEPAD Brainstorming Summit of March 2007 and the Addis Ababa January 2008 AU Assembly's decision, which continue to form the basis for the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures to speed up the conclusion of the Host Agreement for the NEPAD Secretariat with the Government of South Africa and **WELCOMES** the assurance by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa that all efforts would be made to conclude the Host Agreement before the end of July 2008;

7. **AGREES AND URGES** the completion of the process of the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union by the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2009;

8. **ACCEPTS** the recommendation of HSGIC to take three key messages of importance for Africa to the G7 Summit scheduled for Hokkaido, Japan, from 7 – 9 July 2008, as follows:

   - That the Africa Action Plan remains the basis for Africa's engagement with the G8;

   - Reactivation of the G8/NEPAD follow-up mechanism as agreed upon at the G8 Heiligendamm Summit of 2007 to ensure prompt and effective fulfillment of all G8 commitments and pledges to Africa;

   - Facilitate better access to concessional loans by African countries for the purpose of economic growth within the context of prudent macro-economic management as part of the

process of reviewing the issues of Financing for Development. This is all the more important in view of the burden of the hike in prices of oil and inflation in food prices faced by oil importing countries;

9. **EMPHASIZES** that the Japanese "Cool Earth" Initiative should not compromise or undermine Africa's positions and strategies on Climate Change being canvassed at the international level through the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCC's) Kyoto and post-Kyoto processes;

10. **UNDERSCORES** the need for early preparations by Africa for the 2009 G8 Summit in Italy and the 2010 G8 Summit in Canada, and the appropriate engagements at various levels by Africa with the leadership of the two countries for the necessary sensitization towards African priorities, interests and concerns;

11. **APPROVES** the new membership of the NEPAD HSGIC for the next two (2) years as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Egypt	South Africa	Nigeria
Congo	Madagascar*	Algeria	Namibia*	Senegal
DRC	Sudan*	Libya	Malawi*	Mali
Gabon	Rwanda	Tunisia	Lesotho*	Benin*

*New members

12. **DECIDES** that the country chairing the African Union during its term of office, shall automatically be a member of HSGIC, if not already a member and **FURTHER DECIDES** that the Republic of Tanzania shall be a member of HSGIC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.206 (X)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TWELVE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE UNION GOVERNMENT

DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/11 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Committee of Twelve Heads of State and Government which met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 22 to 23 May 2008 and **ENDORSES** its recommendations;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Members of the Committee and **COMMENDS** them for the work done;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its decision in the Accra Declaration to "accelerate the economic and political integration of the African continent, including the formation of a Union Government for Africa with the ultimate objective of creating the United States of Africa and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Twelve in this regard;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work out, the modalities and details for the implementation of the recommendations on the Union Government of the Committee of Twelve, including a road map and the issues that require clarity, and submit proposals thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2009;

5. **DECIDES** to devote a full day of its January 2009 Session to consider the Report of the Commission on this matter with a view to bringing the debate to a final conclusion.

Assembly/AU/Dec.207 (X)

DECISION ON STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE AFRICAN UNION IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Assembly:

1. **RECOGNIZES** that trafficking in human beings is increasingly becoming a global scourge affecting all countries around the world, especially in Africa;

2. **STRESSES** the importance of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as the first comprehensive international instrument dealing with this important issue and calling for achieving its universality as soon as possible;

3. **WELCOMES** the increased efforts to intensify dealing with this issue in the United Nations General Assembly as well as in other regional organizations, as manifested in the 2004 ASEAN declaration against trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, the 2005 Convention of the Council of Europe on action against trafficking in human beings, 2006 AU/EU Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children as well as the ECOWAS Declaration to combat Trafficking in Persons (2001) and the ECOWAS Initial Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2001) and the AU Migration Framework for Africa;

4. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the establishment in 2007 of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT) to coordinate actions among governments, United Nations Organs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector in order to fully ensure protection, prosecution and prevention in dealing with human trafficking;

5. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the "Suzan Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement" for all its efforts in raising public awareness for this important issue and for all its work to further develop public/private partnership to help African countries in combating human trafficking through ensuring protection, prevention and prosecution, in full cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union and through her global ambitious initiative "End Human Trafficking Now";

6. **COMMENDS** the efforts exerted by various African Union organs and United Nations dealing with the issue of trafficking in human beings, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organization on Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and **STRESSES** the need for enhancing cooperation and coordination between the Commission and all other organs and stakeholders dealing with this important issue;

7. **DIRECTS** the Permanent Representatives of the Member States of the African Union to the United Nations in New York to propose and start negotiations on a Global Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings under the auspices of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, taking the 2006 Ouagadougou Action Plan and other regional Action Plans, in particular the ECOWAS Initial Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons as a basis for the African position, and to coordinate with other interested Member States with similar action plans or similar positions towards achieving our objectives;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide all necessary support to the Permanent Representatives in New York throughout the negotiation process and to intensify its interaction with all organs and stakeholders dealing with this issue with a view to ensuring the early adoption of the proposed Global Action Plan, and to present a Progress Report, to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2009.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)

SHARM EL-SHEIKH COMMITMENTS FOR ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 11th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008,

Recognizing the importance of water and sanitation for social, economic and environmental development of our countries and Continent;

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the wellbeing of future generations;

Recognising that water is and must remain a key to sustainable development in Africa, and that water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for Africa's human capital development;

Concerned that there is an underutilization and uneven sharing of water resources in Africa, and that remains a growing challenge in the achievement of food and energy securities;

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa; the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa; and the Millennium Development Goal on water supply and sanitation;

Mindful that our Summit is taking place mid way to the 2015 water, sanitation and other MDGs targets and aware that not much progress has been made in Africa compared to the rest of the world to achieve the MDGs target, and that based on current trends, Africa needs to accelerate its efforts;

Welcoming the Declaration by the international community of 2008 as the year of action on the MDGs, and the Declaration by the United Nations of 2008 as the "International Year of Sanitation" which, for Africa, provides an opportunity for accelerating its regional action plans and implementation strategies by adopting concrete decisions at our Heads of State and Government Summit;

Aware of the need to make progress on the challenges of water and sanitation infrastructure financing, water conservation and equitable distribution, closing the sanitation gap, breaking the silence on sanitation and hygiene, adapting to climate change, integrated management of national and transboundary surface and ground water, investing in information, knowledge and monitoring and institutional development as well capacity-building;

Aware also of the urgent need to develop our water and sanitation infrastructure and institutions in order to provide sufficient and sustainable quantity and quality for all types of services and provide acceptable level of protection from risks of water related disasters and impact of climate change as key for the transformation and socio-economic development, and for public health in Africa;

Recognizing the progress that the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and other institutions and organizations and their development partners have made in the area of water resource management and in the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to the urban and rural populations of our countries albeit the inadequacies;

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first Africa Water Week convened by AMCOW and hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, Tunisia from 26 to 28 March 2008; and further welcoming the eThekwini Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions adopted in South Africa in February 2008, and the Africa-EU Statement on Sanitation of March 2008;

Acknowledging the work done by AMCOW in mobilizing action towards sustainable and integrated water resource management and in providing policy guidance for coordination of water resources management and for water supply and sanitation initiatives as well as the funding mechanisms put in place for these initiatives;

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

(a) **Increase** our efforts to implement our past declarations related to water and sanitation.

(b) **Raise** the profile of sanitation by addressing the gaps in the context of the 2008 eThekwini Ministerial Declaration on sanitation in Africa adopted by AMCOW.

(c) **Address** issues pertaining to agricultural water use for food security as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first African Water Week.

And particularly;

(d) **Develop and/or update** national water management policies, regulatory frameworks, and programmes, and prepare national strategies and action plans for achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation over the next seven (7) years;

(e) **Create** conducive environment to enhance the effective engagement of local authorities and the private sector;

(f) **Ensure** the equitable and sustainable use, as well as promote integrated management and development, of national and shared water resources in Africa;

(g) **Build** institutional and human resources capacity at all levels including the decentralized local government level for programme implementation, enhance information and knowledge management as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation.

(h) **Put in place** adaptation measures to improve the resilience of our countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to our water resources and our capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets;

(i) **Significantly increase** domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and **Call upon** Ministers of water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans;

(j) **Develop** local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors;

(k) **Mobilize** increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives including national projects and Rural Water and Sanitation Initiatives, the African Water Facility; Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 Initiatives on water and sanitation;

(l) **Promote** effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes;

(m) **Promote** programming that addresses the role and interests of youth and women, given that the burden of poor water and sanitation falls disproportionately on women and children;

(n) **Strengthen** AMCOW as a key regional mechanism, and other regional stakeholders, as relevant, for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation;

(o) **Strengthen** AMCOW's initiative on sustainable management of water resources, to implement its roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission;

(p) **Strengthen** partnership at all levels in our countries and between Regional Economic Communities as well as with the international development agencies and promote public-private partnerships with the view to fast tracking actions towards meeting the MDG on water and sanitation in our continent;

(q) **Request** AMCOW to annually report on progress made in the implementation of our commitment on water and sanitation with support from regional partners, and to submit these reports for our consideration;

(r) **Call on** African Ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development partners, to hold a meeting of Ministers of Water and Finance to develop appropriate financing policies;

(s) **Request** the Regional Economic Communities and the Rivers and Lake Basin Organizations to initiate regional dialogues on climate change and its impacts on the water sector with the aim of designing appropriate adaptation measures;

(t) **Call upon** the G8 to reaffirm at its next Summit in Japan its commitment to fully implement the G8 initiatives on water in Africa, notably the 2003 Evian Plan on Water, to step up their engagement in the sanitation sector and to enter into a strengthened partnership with the AU Member States, through AMCOW, for achieving the Water and Sanitation MDGs.

Done in Sharm El-Sheikh on 1July, 2008

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XI)

DECLARATION ON RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF HIGH FOOD PRICES AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 11th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008:

Recalling our decision to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 as a framework for accelerating agricultural development; the Sirte Declaration on Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa in February 2004; the outcomes of the Abuja Summit on Fertilizer;

Recalling further the Declaration of the Food Security Summit held in Abuja in December 2006 that called for a Green Revolution in Africa;

Welcoming the Declaration of the High Level Conference on World food Security convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its Headquarters in Rome, from 3 to 5 June 2008, and in particular the recognition of the need to increase food production in the world; the outcome of the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Nairobi in June 2008;

Concerned by the current crisis caused by the high food prices and its adverse impact on African countries, particularly the poor and vulnerable household segments of the population;

Welcoming the establishment by the UN Secretary-General of the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis;

Recognizing that the high food prices will divert the meagre national resources from development activities to meet urgent food imports needed adequate nutrition;

Mindful that the major causes of the high food prices include rising demand for cereals particularly in rapidly growing economies; grain-based biofuels production and the ensuing competition between food security and energy needs; supply shocks due to the environmental negative impact including climate change, desertification and drought on our capacities to feed a growing global population; low farming productivity as a result of low investment in agriculture especially in Africa; higher energy prices leading to higher input and processing costs, particularly increased prices of fertilizers and transport;

Aware that the crisis can provide an opportunity to build a coalition of responses across the African continent, offering a vehicle for an African agricultural renaissance that raises small scale farmers' incomes, enhances livelihoods, nutrition and ultimately food security for Africa.

DECLARE our firm commitment to:

1- Reduce by half the number of undernourished people in Africa by 2015 and eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the Continent.

2- Take all necessary measures to increase agricultural production and ensure food security in Africa, in particular through the implementation of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of NEPAD and the Maputo Declaration of July 2003.

3- Support the following thematic priority-options:

- Increase food production and productivity for key commodities by improving access to agricultural inputs for diversified cropping and livestock production systems including targeted SMART subsidies (fertiliser, improved seeds, better access to technologies and innovations);
- Improve production of fertilizers from existing plants and explore the possibility of establishing new ones based on the availability of raw materials in the region;
- Support national and regional food initiatives to stabilize prices, and serve as emergency stock;
- Strengthen food security and agricultural information and early warning systems that are sustainable with key stakeholder participation;
- Introduce and support agricultural insurance systems and micro credit;
- Increase production by improved sustainable soil fertility management including conservation agriculture technologies;
- Enhance food processing, credit systems, and use of improved storage, and minimize post harvest losses;
- Promote indigenous crops and technologies for production and processing of nutrient-rich crops;
- Improve logistics capacity to move emergency supplies and agricultural inputs.

4. Address the challenges posed by the high food prices through the following measures:

(a) Immediate/short term responses:

- Immediate assistance to the vulnerable segments of populations through targeted food assistance and safety net measures including cash and/or food transfers to combat hunger and malnutrition;
- Intensify agricultural production and productivity through the use of targeted input subsidies, particularly fertilizer and improved seed, and enhance access to water and small scale irrigation;
- Improve post harvest management to minimize crop storage losses and enhance processing.

(b) Medium to long-term responses:

- Invest in appropriate social safety nets and interventions that include both protective actions to mitigate short-term risks and preventative actions to preclude long-term negative consequences;

- Scale up investments for sustained agricultural growth including expanded public spending for rural infrastructure (roads, markets, irrigation and water harvesting techniques, etc.), services (micro-finance, market information systems, insurance programmes, etc.), agricultural research and technology development and transfer (increased productivity, post-harvest management, extension, etc.);

- Enhance sustainable land management practices including soil and water management and conservation;

- Enhance institutional and human capacities for agricultural development;

- Review bio-fuel policies to make more grains and oilseeds currently used for fuel available for food and feed.

WE CALL FOR:

1- A Global partnership that deals with the causes and repercussions of the current crisis, tackles the issue of food security within the more comprehensive humanitarian scope and its association with the inalienable human right to food and life, so as to support the efforts on the national, regional, and international levels to curtail the rise in food prices.

2- The successful early conclusion of the Doha Round to provide for rules-based, fair and free international trade particularly in food and agriculture commodities is an indispensable part of a long term solution. The substantial lowering of barriers to trade in agriculture products coupled with reductions in overall trade-distorting subsidies, particularly in developed countries will have an impact on food production and investment in agriculture in many developing countries, particularly in Africa.

3- The immediate launching of an International High level dialogue between food exporters and importers from developed and developing countries aimed at:

   a. Concluding an international strategy for the short, medium and long-term handling of the current crisis.

   b. Examining the speculation risks pertinent to agricultural commodity prices.

   c. Reinforcing the efforts to promote the development of the agriculture sector in fields of land reclamation, boosting productivity, and encourages the infrastructure needed for transporting and stockpiling crops.

   d. Energizing scientific research in the field of fertilizers and new seed varieties, one that scrutinizes the effects of genetically modified seeds on sanitary and phyto- sanitary, human, as well as animal health.

   e. Confronting climate change challenges seriously and effectively in its relationship with prevailing consumption and production patterns, and their grave repercussions on drought and land desertification, and their direct consequences on the world's food security.

4- The setting of an international code of conduct that:

   a. Reconsiders the current expansion in the production of biofuel as an alternative source of traditional energy.

b. Sets the standards for the responsible utilization of grain based biofuel.
c. Reassesses the actual social and environmental costs of biofuel, and restricts its production to agricultural waste and specific designated non food crops.

d. Reconsiders the current subsidy offered to ethanol and bio-diesel producers, and subjects it to rules of world trade. This subsidization is creating hazardous distortion to the present international system of agricultural production and trade.

WE FURTHER CALL UPON:

- Multilateral and bilateral development partners, in particular those participating in the next G8 Summit in Hokaiddo to provide financial and technical support to assist African countries to increase substantially their food and agricultural production and productivity.

- The RECs to take proactive measures on their assistance to countries on the short term, as well as, medium-long term response by identification of the technical assistance required at the regional level.

- African Union Commission and NEPAD Secretariat to establish a taskforce supported by FAO, WFP, IFAD, World Bank, and RECs that can coordinate active and timely follow-up to actions in this declaration including; facilitation the coordination of development partners support for country level programming activities in connection with both immediate and longer term responses to the food price crisis and supporting the dialogue with development partners at national level on responses to the crisis.

- The African Union Commission, NEPAD Secretariat in collaboration with the FAO, WFP, IFAD, AfDB and the World Bank to develop a short term action plan to raise production substantially in the next two planning seasons.

We commit ourselves to mobilize all means to alleviate the suffering caused by the situation of rising food prices and to strengthen agricultural development raising production and productivity as a solution to the challenges facing Africa.

Sharm El-Sheikh, 1 July 2008

Assembly/AU/Tribute (XI)

TRIBUTE TO LATE AIMÉ CÉSAIRE, POET AND HUMANIST FROM MARTINIQUE

We, Heads of State and Government, meeting in the 11th Ordinary Session of our Assembly, deeply saddened by the departure of our brother Aimé Césaire on 17 April 2008 at age 94, hereby pay a special tribute to the memory of one of the greatest humanists in modern times, to the memory of the man who devoted his entire life struggling relentlessly and fearlessly against slavery and colonialism, and for the emancipation of black people around the world.

We, recognize with deep appreciation the action and work of Aimé Césaire; his denunciation of the former slave masters seeking to maintain our people in the shackles of psychological bondage, we salute his unswerving show of solidarity towards Africa as well as his valuable contribution to our continent's struggle to free herself from the yoke of colonialism.

Our brother Aimé Césaire, who was a uniquely talented poet turned politician, maintained brotherly relations with the Late Leopold Sedar Senghor, the former President of Senegal with whom he crafted the concept of "Negritude" that will forever remain the hallmark of their action against prejudice and for the defense of the cultural and spiritual values of black people everywhere; a concept that turns into positive all the negative connotation that some people want to associate to the word "Negro" out of sheer prejudice.

We salute the courage and selflessness of late Aimé Césaire who, despite the intimidation, the harassment and the isolation which he was subjected to by those who disliked his ideas, has never given up on his strong desire and determination to uphold the values, the rights and the freedom of black people.

For his action and for his work, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to pay a solemn and well deserved tribute to Aimé Césaire, a brother and a great humanist whose countless writings will, no doubt, inspire future generations in their quest for justice and equality.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XI)

RESOLUTION ON ZIMBABWE

The African Union Assembly, meeting in its 11th Ordinary Session held from 30 June to 1 July 2008 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt;

Deeply concerned with the prevailing situation in Zimbabwe,

Deeply concerned the negative reports of SADC, the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament observers on the Zimbabwean President run-off election held on 27 June 2008;

Deeply Concerned about the violence and loss of life that have occurred in Zimbabwe,

Considering the urgent need to prevent further worsening of the situation and in order to avoid the spread of conflict with the consequential negative impact on the country and the sub-region,

Further considering the need to create an environment conducive to democracy, as well as the development of the people of Zimbabwe;

Expressing its appreciation to SADC, and its Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as to the Facilitator of the intra-Zimbabwe dialogue, His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, and His Excellency Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the ongoing work aimed at reconciling the political parties,

Recognizing the complexity of the situation in Zimbabwe;

Noting the willingness of the political leaders of Zimbabwe to enter into negotiations to establish a Government of National Unity;

Noting Further that preparatory discussions on this matter has already started, under SADC facilitation;

Hereby decide:

1. **TO ENCOURAGE** President Robert Mugabe and the leader of the MDC Party Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai to honour their commitments to initiate dialogue with a view to promoting peace, stability, democracy and reconciliation of the Zimbabwean people;
2. **TO SUPPORT** the call for the creation of a Government of National Unity;
3. **TO SUPPORT** the SADC Facilitation, and **RECOMMEND** that SADC mediation efforts should be continued in order to assist the people and leadership of Zimbabwe to resolve the problems they are facing. In this regard SADC should establish a mechanism on the ground in order to seize the momentum for a negotiated solution;
4. **TO APPEAL** to States and parties concerned to refrain from any action that may negatively impact on the climate of dialogue;
5. In the spirit of all SADC initiatives, the AU remains convinced that the people of Zimbabwe will be able to resolve their differences and work together once again as one Nation, provided they receive undivided support from SADC, the AU and the world at large.

DECISIONS

Annex II to the letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

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EX.CL/Dec.415 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM DOC.EX.CL/407 (XIII)-a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Review of the African Union (AU) Social Security System;

2. **RECOGNIZES** the urgent need to improve the social security system of `the AU and **REAFFIRMS** its earlier decisions to achieve this goal;

3. **WELCOMES** the recommendations made by the Commission on the structure, mandate and financial implications of the proposed African Union (AU) Pension Fund as requested by the Executive Council during its Eleventh Ordinary Session in Accra, Ghana in July 2007;

4. **DECIDES** as follows:

   a) Work out, as soon as possible the modalities for the establishment of the AU Pension Fund;

   b) Terminate the current contract with ALICO as of 1 January 2009;

   c) Withdraw the accumulated assets with ALICO over a period of five (5) years with effect from 1 January 2009.

5. **DECIDES** to retain the retirement age of AU staff at sixty (60) years.

EX.CL/Dec.416 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REVISED AFRICAN UNION QUOTA SYSTEM DOC. EX.CL/407 (XIII)-a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) relating to the scenarios on the Revised Quota System;

2. **RECOGNIZES** the need for the Executive Council to adopt a system with regard to the eighty-two (82) additional professional positions to the July 2003 Maputo Structure;

3. **APPROVES** the Quota System elaborated under Scenario-2 as follows:

   3.1 The principles of unity and solidarity that guided the adoption of the Maputo structure be used as a basis for the distribution of the eighty-two (82) additional positions;

   3.2 The Maputo quota system formulae shall be used;

   3.3 The Base Membership of each Member State be increased from four (4) to five (5) nationals;

   3.4 The remaining twenty-nine (29) posts be divided up between Member States on the basis of statutory contributions.

4. **AUTHORISES** the Commission to use this quota system in the on-going recruitment exercise;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to update Member States, on a regular basis, on their quota and when new posts are created.

EX.CL/Dec.417 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE BUDGET SURPLUS AND TRANSFER BETWEEN BUDGET LINES DOC. EX.CL/407 (XIII)-a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the request by the Commission to review the working capital amount;

2. **AUTHORIZES** as follows:

   a) The amount of the working capital shall be increased from United States Dollars Two Million (US$2,000,000) to United States Dollars Five Million (US$5,000,000) with effect from the current 2008 financial year;

   b) Part of the arrears received in 2008 shall be used to increase the working capital.

3. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee through its Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, to consider the proposal to carry forward budget surplus to the next budget when information for 2007 accounts is available;

4. **REJECTS** the request of the Chairperson of the Commission to effect transfers from one budget head of the approved budget to another.

EX.CL/Dec.418 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES DOC.PRC/Rpt. (XVI)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on contributions to the regular budget;

2. **COMMENDS** Member States that are up-to-date with the payment of their contributions;

3. **URGES** all Member States to honour their financial obligations in order to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Union;

4. **URGES** Member States who are in default of payment of their contributions to pay up their arrears;

5. **DECIDES** that the following Member States shall remain under sanctions:

   i) Cape Verde

   ii) Democratic Republic of Congo

   iii) Eritrea

   iv) Sao Tome and Principe

   v) Seychelles.

REITERATES ITS REQUEST to the Commission to work out a standard formula that could be applied to Member States emerging from conflict situation for consideration by the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in January 2009.

EX.CL/Dec.419 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE AU CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD MAY - DECEMBER 2008 DOC.PRC/Rpt (XVI)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the African Union (AU) Calendar of Meetings for the period of May to December 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the Calendar of Meetings for the period of May to December 2008;

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the postponement of the Meeting of the PRC and Experts on the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) to October/November 2008;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to refrain from scheduling meetings during the month preceding meetings of the Assembly in order to dedicate all necessary resources for the preparation and finalization of these meetings;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that religious events and holidays are taken into account when preparing the Calendar of Meetings;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to reduce the number of meetings, taking into account its capacity and resources to convene them, and to avoid the overlapping of meetings;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure timely preparation and submission of proposals for inclusion in the Calendar of Meetings for the following year, which shall be presented to the PRC by November of each year, and adopted during the January session;

8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to transmit outcome documents of AU meetings to Member States expeditiously;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, to include the meetings of the PRC and its sub-committees, as well as those of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) in the Calendar of Meetings;

10. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to explore the modalities for using the conference facilities available at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), within the context of the cooperation between the two organizations.

EX.CL/Dec.420 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION BY THE 11TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE AUDIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. EX.CL/408(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations made by the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the issues referred to the Commission by the 11th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on the Audit of the African Union held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 6 to 7 May 2008;

2. **REQUESTS** the Commission, with regard to the matters referred to it by Council, to implement those that are purely administrative in nature, linked to the internal processes of the Commission, and do not have any financial implication;

3. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, with regard to the recommendations with structural, financial and long term implications to work out, in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee the modalities of implementation and to report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for January 2009.

EX.CL/Dec.421 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF OAU/AU TREATIES DOC. EX.CL/410(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of OAU/AU Treaties;

2. **COMMENDS** Member States and the Commission for the ongoing efforts aimed at encouraging other Member States to become States Parties to the OAU/AU Treaties;

3. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to Member States to give priority to OAU/AU Treaties and speed up the process for their signature and ratification/accession and report periodically, as may be appropriate, on the progress made in the implementation of the Treaties;

4. **FURTHER REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the Pan-African Parliament to carry out advocacy and sensitize Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;

5. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to accelerate the recruitment of a Jurist in the Arabic language within the next twelve (12) months, to align the Arabic legal instruments with the texts in the other languages in order to ensure consistency of the treaties in all working languages of the African Union;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the study on harmonization of ratification procedures and implement the relevant decisions relating to the review of OAU/AU Treaties;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to convene the meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General on outstanding legal matters, and to report to the Executive Council in due course.

EX.CL/Dec.422 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC) DOC. EX.CL/412 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC);

2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Standing and Credentials Committees of the interim ECOSOCC and the Commission in implementing the previous Decision of the Executive Council on elections into ECOSOCC;

3. **RECOGNIZES** that these efforts have established an appropriate foundation for launching the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC;

4. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission in consultation with the Chairperson of the Union to set an early date for launching the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC and to take all necessary measures to facilitate the process;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** all Member States to provide adequate support for this process and to the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC as soon as it is established;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC, when established, to take urgent and necessary steps to ensure that elections are organized in the remaining Member States where elections have not yet taken place.

EX.CL/Dec.423 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA Doc. EX.CL/413 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

2. **FURTHER NOTES** with concern the magnitude of the effects of global climate change and the current food crisis, and their devastating impact on already vulnerable populations;

3. **ALSO NOTES** that refugee influxes have continued to occur in various parts of the Continent, and **REITERATES ITS GRATITUDE** to the host countries for the generosity they are making in providing asylum to refugees despite their meagre resources;

4. **REQUESTS** the countries of origin to promote peace, security, stability and national reconciliation in order to create conducive conditions for the return of victims of forced displacement in safety and dignity, and continue to address the root causes of forced displacement to facilitate total elimination of the problem;

5. **CALLS UPON** the humanitarian organizations as well as donors, in view of the urgency, magnitude and complexity of the situation of forced displacement in the Continent to enhance their capacities and harmonize their activities so that the positive impact is brought to bear on the humanitarian situation;

6. **INVITES** the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in recognition of its protection expertise, to continue and reinforce its role in the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within the United Nations coordination mechanism;

7. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the progress made by Member States' legal experts in the finalization of the draft African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa with a view to its adoption by the Heads of State and Government during the forthcoming Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled for November 2008; and **APPEALS** to Member States to consider hosting it;

8. **URGES** Member States to participate actively in the meetings of Experts and Ministers in charge of the Matter of Forced Displacement as well as the historical Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with Member States to update statistics and present to the Executive Council the latest figures on forced population displacement in the Report on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

10. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to follow-up on the situation of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and to report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2009.

EX.CL/Dec.424 (XIII)

DECISION ON PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
DOC. EX.CL/414(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Private Sector Forum held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 23 January 2008;

2. **WELCOMES** the commitment of the private sector in working with the African Union (AU) in pursuit of its objectives as well as with the United Nations (UN) Global Compact;

3. **RECOGNISES** the critical role of the private sector in the furtherance of Africa's regional and continental integration agenda which enhances the promotion of inter and intra-African trade, investment, promotion of sustainable development, the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the integration of Africa into the global economy;

4. **ENCOURAGES** the public and private sectors to pursue good corporate governance, socially responsible business practices, transparency, and the respect of laws, rules and regulations;

5. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the public and private sectors to work closely together in utilizing their respective core competencies to attain synergy and achieve results collectively;

6. **CALLS UPON** Member States to create an enabling environment for effective private sector development;

7. **URGES** all stakeholders to fully participate in the implementation of the recommendations;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact and other relevant stakeholders to put in place an effective mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the agreed recommendations;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in consultation with the Permanent Missions to the AU in Addis Ababa, to identify participants for the Private Sector Forum.

EX.CL/Dec.425 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE AFRICA-EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DIALOGUE
DOC. EX.CL/416 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Consolidated Report of Consultations on the Implementation of the first Action Plan of the Africa-European Union (EU) Joint Strategy;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations made by Member States and civil society on the way forward regarding the implementation of the Action Plan;

3. **UNDERSCORES** the critical coordinating role of the *chefs de file* and the need to comply with the format of the Troika meetings in accordance with the Joint Strategy and Plan of Action regarding the participation of members of the Troika at the Ministerial level and members of the enlarged Troika at Experts and Senior Officials level;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to express interest in the eight partnerships of the first Action Plan, allocate the necessary human, material and financial resources and propose projects for the implementation, based on criteria to be agreed upon with the Commission and within the framework of the eight partnerships, of the first Action Plan;

5. **URGES** Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and other relevant stakeholders to take active part in the implementation of the first Action Plan under the coordination of the Commission;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure the effective involvement of the Regional Economic Communities in the implementation and monitoring of the processes;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to negotiate implementation modalities with the European Union on the basis of the outcome of the consultations.

EX.CL/Dec.426 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE STATUS OF THE MDGs AFRICA INITIATIVE DOC. EX.CL/417(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Progress Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Status of Implementation of the MDGs Africa Steering and Working Group Recommendations;

2. **RECALLS** the Assembly Decision of the January 2008 Summit mandating the Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to prepare an annual report on Africa's progress towards the MDGs as well as report on the activities of the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's special initiative on the MDGs, and the MDGs Africa Steering Group;

3. **COMMENDS** progress made so far by some countries towards achieving the MDGs; and **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that the majority of countries are still not on track to meeting all the MDGs by the target date;

4. **WELCOMES and ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Report including those of the MDGs Africa Steering Groups, and CALLS UPON Member States and Partners to support their implementation;

5. **CALLS UPON** Member States and Development Partners to devote sufficient resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) in line with Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.92 (VI) on the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015);

6. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to align development strategies to MDGs and support those who heed this call;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to organize an African High Level Preparatory Meeting for the forthcoming UN High Level Event on Africa's Development Needs as well as a High Level Event on the Millenium Development Goals in September 2008, to come up with an African common position on accelerating progress to attain the MDGs in Africa.

EX.CL/Dec.427 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) DOC. EX.CL/420 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII);

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Accra Declaration and the Accra Accord adopted by UNCTAD XII, in May 2008;

3. **WELCOMES** the re-affirmation and strengthening of the mandate of UNCTAD as the focal point of the United Nations (UN) for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and **URGES** that UNCTAD be endowed with adequate resources to effectively carry out its mandate;

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the directive of UNCTAD XII to the UNCTAD Secretariat to enhance, across all areas of its mandate, its work on the special problems of the African continent and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU Commission and UNCTAD signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2008 and to organize, as soon as possible, a meeting with the UNCTAD Secretariat with a view to developing and prioritizing a programme of activities that will enhance the capacity of African countries;

6. **URGES** the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to address the development opportunities and challenges of globalization in accordance with the Accra Declaration and the Accra Accord.

EX.CL/Dec.428 (XIII)

DECISION ON PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VARIOUS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OF THE AFRICAN UNION WITH JAPAN (TICAD IV), CHINA, SOUTH AMERICA, INDIA, TURKEY AND IRAN
DOC.EX.CL.421 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report by the Commission on the Various Strategic Partnerships of the African Union (AU) with Japan (TICAD IV), China, South America, India, Turkey and Iran;

2. **REAFFIRMS** that these partnerships are important to the process of development of the Continent and that Africa needs to prepare adequately in order to benefit fully from the opportunities that these partnerships provide;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures to facilitate the successful conduct of the Africa-Turkey Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 2008, and the Second Africa-South America Summit scheduled for Venezuela, in November 2008;

4. **CALLS ON** Member States to participate effectively in both Summits in line with the 2006 Banjul Decision;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue working closely with the relevant AU organs with a view to strengthening existing partnerships and developing a strategy for the AU to ensure that Africa engages in win-win partnerships that will benefit the Continent as a whole;

6. **DECIDES** that the Commission and partners shall jointly organize all future meetings within the framework of the partnerships;

7. **CALLS ON** Member States to take necessary steps to take advantage of the outcomes of both the Africa-India Forum Summit and TICAD IV, and **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the Commission to elaborate with India an appropriate plan of action for the implementation of the Delhi Declaration and Framework of Cooperation as agreed in the Delhi Declaration;

8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to take urgent steps to conclude the global review of all existing partnerships, including the criteria for such partnerships, rationalization of and participation of Member States at summits, as mandated by the July 2006 Banjul Decision, and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the Executive Council in January 2009.

EX.CL/Dec.429 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE ON-GOING DOHA ROUND NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION DOC. EX.CL/423 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the on-going Doha Round Negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO);

2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Negotiations, adopted by the Joint Conference of AU Ministers of Trade and Finance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2008;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the attainment of a fair, balanced and rules-based multilateral trading system with specific commitments for special and differential treatment for developing countries;

4. **CALLS FOR** an early conclusion of the current Doha Round of Negotiations, without compromising the development dimension that should be at the centre of the outcome;

5. **URGES** the WTO Members, especially the major players in the negotiations, to show more political commitment and greater flexibility in negotiating positions that will ensure successful conclusion of the Doha Round;

6. **COMMENDS** African Negotiators for their articulation and defence of Africa's common interests in the negotiations and **REQUESTS** them to remain vigilant and united in the final phase of the Doha Round.

EX.CL/Dec.430 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE DOC. EX.CL/427 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF);

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Declaration adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of Ministers of Defence and Security regarding the operationalization of the ASF by 2010;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, working closely with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), as well as Member States, to implement the recommendations expeditiously with the view to operationalizing the ASF by 2010;

4. **CALLS ON** Member States and the partners to provide the necessary support with respect to technical and financial resources for the effective establishment of the ASF by 2010.

EX.CL/Dec.431 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE FIRST JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA'S CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DOC.EX.CL/428(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

2. **WELCOMES** the organization of the First Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

3. **ENDORSES** the conclusions of the Conference;

4. **CONGRATULATES** the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on its 50th Anniversary, and **ACKNOWLDGES** the important role the latter continues to play in helping to address Africa's socio-economic challenges;

5. **CALLS ON** Member States and their representatives at the United Nations Headquarters to actively participate in preparatory meetings and workshops on the implementation and review of the Monterrey Consensus;

6. **WELCOMES** the establishment of the African Climate Policy Center at UNECA with the objective of providing policy guidance to Member States;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with UNECA and other relevant partners to establish an African Cluster on Science and Technology to foster the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;

8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with members of the African statistical systems and in line with the established procedure, to finalize and submit the African Charter on Statistics at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for January 2009;

9. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL AND CALLS ON** Member States to meet their own commitments to increase budget allocation to Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-sensitive sectors, in particular meeting the ten percent (10%) allocation to agriculture as agreed under the AU-New

Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the fifteen percent (15%) of budget allocation to health as agreed in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis (TB) and other related infectious diseases;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with UNECA to create an observatory for regional integration in Africa, as a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices in regional integration;

11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to pursue and further strengthen its collaboration with UNECA.

EX.CL/Dec.432 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENERGY ON THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION (AFREC) DOC. EX.CL/430 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Meeting of African Ministers in charge of Energy on the Official launching of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) held in Algiers, Algeria from 15 to 17 February 2008 and the recommendations contained therein;

2. **ENDORSES** the Algiers Declaration on the official launching of AFREC;

3. **URGES** Member States, that have not yet done so, to speed up the signing and ratification of the Convention of the African Energy Commission;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other relevant partners to mobilize the necessary resources and political support for the activities of AFREC;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

EX.CL/Dec.433 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT (CAMT) DOC. EX.CL/432 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport (CAMT) held in Algiers, Algeria from 21 to 25 April 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the operationalization of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport (CAMT) including its Rules of Procedure;

3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Guidelines on Negotiation of Air Service Agreements between the African Union (AU) Member States and the European Commission (EC) and/or European Union (EU) Member States;

4. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the Declaration and updated Plans of Action adopted by the Ministers in Algiers for the development and strengthening of transport infrastructure and services in Africa;

5. **URGES** Member States to ensure effective application of the Continental Guidelines in their negotiations of air service agreements with the EC and/or EU Member States as well as consult the AU Commission whenever necessary in order to protect Africa's collective interests in the aviation industry;

6. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to disseminate the Guidelines on Negotiation of Air Service Agreements to all Member States and other key stakeholders including the European Commission as well as facilitate their application;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, Member States and other stakeholders to take all necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the Plans of Action with a view to developing a strong, integrated and viable transport sector in the Continent;

8. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union, the World Bank and other relevant development partners to support the implementation of the Plans of Action of the African Union on transport development;

9. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

EX.CL/Dec.434 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (LSAC) DOC. EX.CL/433(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Sixth Ordinary Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21 to 25 April 2008;

2. **CALLS ON** Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the recommendations of LSAC to the AU Commission before the end of November 2008;

3. **ALSO CALLS ON** Member States to implement the Policy Framework on Migration in Africa and the Africa-European Union (EU) Declaration on Migration and Development, and ensure that the rights and dignity of migrant workers are respected by receiving Countries;

4. **URGES** Member States to participate in the Experts Workshop on the Informal Economy in Africa and to assist in the development of related Continental strategies and programmes;

5. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission in collaboration with Member States and other partners to prepare a comprehensive analytical report, in 2009, on the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** that reflection should continue on the rethinking of the working methods of LSAC and that this issue should be raised during the first session of the AU Ministers in charge of Social Development Conference to be held in October 2008;

7. **ENDORSES** all the proposed candidatures by LSAC for the International Labour Organization Governing Body (ILO-GB) as listed in the Report including the following:

    i) The candidature of Algeria for the Government Vice-Chair for the 97th Session of the International Labour Commission (ILC) and;

    ii) The candidature of Mr. Juan Somavia, for a third term, as Director General of ILO;

8. **ALSO ENDORSES** the LSAC Resolution on Palestinian Workers and Declaration on the Food Crisis in Africa.

EX.CL/Dec.435 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) DOC. EX.CL/434 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Session of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Communications and Information Technologies (ICT) held in Cairo, Egypt from 11 to 14 May 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa;

3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Strategic Orientation and Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa;

4. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the eleven (11) flagship projects of the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);

5. **URGES** Member States to ensure effective use of the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations and, the implementation of the Strategic Orientation and Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to disseminate the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations, and the Strategic Orientation and Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa to all Member States and other key stakeholders as well as facilitate their application;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, Member States and other stakeholders to take the necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the Reference Framework for Telecommunication and ICT, the Strategies and Action Plans for the development of a Postal Sector in Africa, and the ARAPKE with a view to developing a strong, integrated and viable Communications sector in the Continent;

8. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Bank, the European Union (EU), and relevant development partners to support the implementation of the Reference Framework for Telecommunication and ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa, the Strategies and Action Plans for the Development of the Postal sector in Africa and the African Regional Action plan on Knowledge Economy and its flagship projects;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit an official proposal to the African Development Bank seeking support to establish a Communication and Information Technologies Fund before 2010 to foster the implementation of ARAPKE;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

EX.CL/Dec.436 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH DOC. EX.CL/435(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Special Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Health held in Geneva, Switzerland on17 May 2008;

2. **EMPHASISES** that the attainment of the Health MDGs will require renewed commitment to health and development with particular focus on Primary Health Care; strengthening of health systems, significant increases in domestic and external investment, national ownership and improved effectiveness of international cooperation;

3. **ENDORSES** the adoption of an **Africa Healthy Lifestyles Day**, proposed to be *"the Last Friday of February each Year"*;

4. **URGES** Member States to actively pursue the implementation of the Africa Health Strategy, in line with their respective national and regional health plans and strategies;

5. **ALSO URGES** Member States to submit updated information in order to accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action of the AU Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2001-2010);

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit the report on the mid-term review on the occasion of Africa Traditional Medicine Day, 31st August 2008;

7. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to implement the outcomes of the April 2008 AU Continental Workshop to Harmonise, Develop and Institutionalise the Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality Reviews, and accelerate the implementation of MDG 4 and 5 in the framework of previous strategies to promote maternal, newborn and child health;

8. **ENDORSES** the nomination of Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of South Africa, to act as AU Goodwill Ambassador and Champion for *"Africa's Movement to Improve Maternal Health and Promote Child Survival and Development beyond 2015"* in collaboration with other Health Ministers";

9. **URGES** Member States to double efforts at national, regional and continental levels to implement the May 2006 Abuja Commitments Towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Services, and submit national reports for the 5-Year Review due in 2010 in time;

10. **CALLS UPON** Member States to actively implement the recommendations of the Taskforce on Training and Education of the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) and **ALSO CALLS UPON** Ministers of Health of AU Member States to participate actively in the Sixth International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza due to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 24 to 26 October 2008; and to take part in the deliberations of the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework convention on Tobacco control to be held in Durban, South Africa, in November 2008;

11. **ALSO CALLS UPON** Regional and International Development Partners to sustain efforts to support Member States in the implementation of the above commitments, including resource mobilization;

12. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to coordinate and harmonise follow up actions of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan, including the preparation of a concrete plan for implementation, in close collaboration with countries, Regional Economic Communities, the World Health Organization (WHO), Intellectual Property Organizations and other relevant partners;

13. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and report to the next Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health (April 2009).

EX.CL/Dec.437 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT AND DECLARATION OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF INTEGRATION Doc. EX.CL/436(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and the Declaration of the Third Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 22 to 23 May 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration and the recommendations;

3. **URGES** the Member States that have not done so, to establish structures dealing with integration issues;

4. **ENCOURAGES** Members States to consider allowing a gradual transfer of part of their sovereignty to the regional and continental institutions along the principle of subsidiarity for the realization of integration programmes;

5. **CALLS ON** Member States to exempt all government officials and all African citizens who are holders of diplomatic passports from visas;

6. **ALSO CALLS ON** Member States of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have not yet done so, to fast-track the implementation of the legal instruments adopted on free movement on the one hand, and on the other, those that have already implemented their free movement programme, to take all necessary measures in order to remove any impediment to the success of this programme;

7. **FURTHER CALLS ON** Member States of the RECs to accelerate the establishment, where they do not exist, of free trade areas (FTA);

8. **CALLS ON** Member States to allocate more resources for regional infrastructure development, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct the necessary studies to this effect;

9. **CALLS ON** Member States, the Commission as well as the development partners to take all necessary measures to initiate adequate programmes likely to provide lasting solutions to difficulties facing countries that have experienced war to reduce the development disparity among States;

10. **RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly devotes exclusively, when necessary, one of its sessions exclusively to issues pertaining to integration and development;

11. **CALLS** for the holding of periodic meetings between the Chairpersons of the RECs and of the Chairperson of the Union, in consultation with the Commission in order to strengthen coordination and follow-up;

12. **REQUESTS** the Commission to present on a regular basis a report to the Assembly, at its July sessions, on the status of integration in Africa.

EX.CL/Dec.438 (XIII)

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
Doc. EX.CL/ 438(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Afro-Arab Cooperation;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the important role to be played by the Private Sectors and the Civil Societies of the two regions in revitalizing and further consolidating Afro-Arab Cooperation;

3. **COMMENDS** the Commission of the African Union (AU) and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) for the timely initiative taken in developing a mechanism to ensure full involvement of non-governmental actors in planning, implementation and monitoring of Afro-Arab programs and projects;

4. **RECALLS** the decision of the 20th Arab Summit held in Damascus, Syria from 29 to 30 March 2008, welcoming the establishment of the Afro-Arab Development Forum;

5. **DECIDES** on the establishment of the Afro-Arab Development Forum where African and Arab Professional Associations, Researchers, Civil Societies, Private Sectors, Prominent individuals, will meet and discuss issues of common concern to the two regions and **ENDORSES** the Framework and Modalities for the establishment of the Forum adopted by the 3rd AU/LAS Inter-secretariat Consultative Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December 2007;

6. **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to commence preparation for the inaugural session of the Forum to be held during the 4th quarter of 2008;

7. **WELCOMES** the reaffirmation by the Great Jamahiriya of its offer to ho. : the 13th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Afro-Arab Cooperation and **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to consult with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on the necessary arrangements for the holding of the said Session;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the LAS Secretariat and the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), through its Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, to prepare the necessary documentation pertaining to Afro-Arab Cooperation, including a draft joint strategy and action plan addressing areas of mutual interest including Peace and Security, Economic Cooperation and Investment;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene a meeting of the twelve (12) African countries with a view to elaborating a common position before the meeting of the Standing Committee;

10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission and the LAS Secretariat to make the necessary preparations for the convening of the Afro-Arab Summit;

11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report to the PRC on proposed institutional cooperation mechanisms between the AU and LAS, as well as the activities of joint Afro-Arab institutions including proposals to further improve their work;

12. **UNDERSCORES** the need for regular consultations between African and Arab Ambassadors in selected Capitals and Cities, in particular in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Brussels, Geneva, New Yor and Washington with a view to coordinating actions and, where possible, harmonizing positions on global and regional issues of common concern;

13. **ENDORSES** the establishment of Afro-Arab Committees of Ambassadors in identified and other capitals and cities where the African Union and the League of Arab States have representations;

14. **CALLS UPON** Heads of all Permanent Delegations and Diplomatic Missions of the African Union and the League of Arab States to work hand in hand for the establishment and proper functioning of the Committees.

EX.CL/Dec.439 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE SINGLE LEGAL INSTRUMENT ON THE MERGER OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE AFRICAN UNION DOC. EX.CL/431(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14 to 18 April 2008;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Single Legal Instrument on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of Justice of the African Union;

3. **RECOMMENDS** the Draft Single Legal Instrument on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of justice of the African Union to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

EX.CL/Dec. 440 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST DOC. EX.CL/442 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;

2. **REITERATES** its full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli Occupation under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, to achieve their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and to their property, and to live in peace and stability in an Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law, all pertinent United Nations (UN) Resolutions, particularly Resolution 194, which calls for the return of refugees to their homeland and properties, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its support for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the principles of international law and all relevant resolutions; and **REQUESTS** the UN Security Council to shoulder its major responsibilities under its Charter in maintaining International peace and security in order to achieve a comprehensive just, and lasting peace;

4. **ALSO REAFFIRMS** its support for the Arab Peace Initiative that was adopted during the Arab League Summit - Beirut 2002; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to accept and to take advantage of this historical opportunity, which aims at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and establish peace in the region;

5. **COMMENDS** the relentless efforts of the Palestinian leadership particularly those of H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and President of the Palestinian National Authority, for his commitment to achieving peace;

6. **REAFFIRMS** its support for the Road Map of the Quartet and the resolution of the OAU/AU aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories that began on 4th June 1967;

7. **COMMENDS** the Yemeni Initiative for reconciliation between the different Palestinian factions, all the efforts exerted by all other friendly and brotherly countries, especially the relentless and sincere efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as the efforts of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Executive Committee of PLO and President of PNA, to resolve their differences and close ranks to confront the challenges facing the Palestinian people to achieve their national legitimate goals, which were approved by the UN resolutions related to the right of self-determination that will enable the Palestinian people to establish their own independent and sovereign Palestinian State with Al-quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;

8. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the resumption of the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli side in order to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East;

9. **FURTHER EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the relentless efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt which resulted in the achievement of a period calm in the Gaza Strip; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to cooperate in good faith in its implementation and lift the blockade imposed on the Strip;

10. **CONDEMNS** the Israeli government's decision to build 820 new settlement units in Jabal Abu Ghneim, Shuafat and Beit Hanina of the 1967 territories, which is considered as a serious threat to the entire peace process;

11. **URGES** the Israeli government to stop all unilateral measures aimed at and designed to create a new reality in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, particularly the continuous building of illegal settlements as a new geopolitical reality; and further **URGES** the Israeli government to immediately cease all settlement activities in the Palestinian Occupied Territories and to remove the road blocks and demolish the Apartheid Separation Wall that is built in the occupied territories, as well as to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice and U.N. General Assembly Resolution in this regard;

12. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its continuing work on excavations around and under the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the deliberate destruction of places of archaeological and heritage in the city of Al-quds (Jerusalem), in addition to doing great damage to the religious places and for its religious, historical and civilization values;

13. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the worsening humanitarian situation and increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, particularly in the Gaza strip, due to the constant siege, ongoing daily Israeli aggressions, restrictions on the movement of persons and constant closures an blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighboring countries, which has lead to dramatic increase in the unemployment rate and poverty levels to Palestinian Society, and therefore negatively affecting security and stability in the region;

14. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli occupying authority and denounces the repressive practices and policies, particularly the continuous invasions, daily assassinations, and brutal assaults committed against the defenseless Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) its capital, and **URGES** the Israeli government to immediately put an end to activities which constitute a flagrant violation of International law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

15. **FURTHER STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the brutal Israeli practices and all kinds of violence against the defenceless innocent Palestinian civilians that claimed hundreds of lives during these past two (2) months, specifically the bloodbath massacre in the Gaza Strip;

16. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** regarding the deterioration of the living health conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails; **DENOUNCES AND CONDEMNS** all Israeli inhuman practices against prisoners and detainees; **DEMANDS** that the International Community, and in particular all international human rights bodies move effectively to uphold the cause of prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails and to work towards their release, and to compel Israel to abide by the laws and relevant international treaties; **AND STRESSES** that achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the

region will not be achieved without the release of all prisoners and detainees from the Israeli jails;

17. **CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab lands occupied since 1967, including the Syrian and Lebanese territories, and to abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the Land for peace Principle, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map, in order to reach a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict;

18. **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts deployed by the Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine established by the July 2002 Decision AHG/Dec. 182 (XXXVIII), and **URGES** continued efforts by the African Union in the quest for a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict in Palestine and the Middle East, and warmly **WELCOMES** the proposal by the current Chair of the African Union to visit Ramallah in order to experience the reality of the situation prevailing in the occupied territories;

19. **COMMENDS** the recent developments in Lebanon which have led to the agreement on the election of the President of the Republic and the formation of a government, and **INVITES** all the Lebanese parties to work towards the consolidation of this major gain for the restoration of peace and national reconciliation.

EX.CL/Dec.441 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC) - DOC. EX.CL/447(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

2. **ADOPTS** the theme of the Day of the African Child for 2009: *«Africa Fit for Children: Call for Accelerated Action Towards their Survival»;*

3. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the Members of the Committee whose term of office comes to an end in July 2008 for their dedicated and loyal service to the Committee;

4. **COMMENDS** Members of the Committee for the adoption of guidelines related to each of the priority areas to be discussed in all State Party Reports, and for the organization of the pre-session for the consideration of State Party Reports;

5. **URGES** Member States that have not yet ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to speed up this process;

6. **ALSO URGES** Member States that have not yet submitted their reports to comply with the recommendations of the Committee for the submission of reports;

7. **REQUESTS** Members of the Committee to make the necessary preparations to organize the second Children's Champion Award;

8. **CALLS UPON** the Members of the Committee, in the execution of their programme, to prioritise the implementation of the Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action Towards «Africa Fit for Children»;

9. **REQUESTS** the Committee to collaborate with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant institutions in carrying out its mandate;

10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Committee to spare no effort in pursuing its mandate of promotion of the rights of the child and implementation of the provisions in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

11. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to clarify and review the status of the Committee and provide it with an autonomous budget to enable it to fulfill its mission of coordinating and implementation of the Charter on the Continent.

EX.CL/Dec.442 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION

DOC. EX.CL/448 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election of Members of the Advisory Board on Corruption within the African Union;

2. **DECIDES** to defer the elections of the Members of the Board to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for January 2009;

3. **CALLS ON** Member States to submit their candidatures in a timely manner.

EX.CL/Dec.443 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

DOC. EX.CL/450 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election for the vacant posts for the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

2. **ELECTS** the following members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:

   (i) Mrs. Agnès KABORE (Burkina Faso)
   (ii) Mr. Andrianirainy RASAMOELY (Madagascar)
   (iii) Mrs. Maryam UWAIS (Nigeria)
   (iv) Mr. Cyprien Adébayo YANCLO (Benin)

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to the Assembly for appointment.

EX.CL/Dec.444 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

DOC. EX.CL/451 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election of Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

2. **ELECTS** the following Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

(i)	Mrs. Sophia A.B. AKUFFO (Ghana)	(6-year term)
(ii)	Mr. Githu MUIGAI (Kenya)	(6-year term)
(iii)	Mr. Joseph Nyamihana MULENGA (Uganda)	(6-year term)
(iv)	Mr. Bernard Makgabo NGOEPE (South Africa)	(6-year term)

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Judges of the African Court on Human and People's Rights to the Assembly for appointment.

EX.CL/Dec.445 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN WOMEN Doc. EX.CL/425(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Continental Conference on the Economic Empowerment of Women within the context of integration held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 17 to 19 March 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendation of the Report of the Continental Conference on the Economic Empowerment of Women on the establishment of the Trust Fund for African Women;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to undertake a feasibility study on a Trust Fund for African Women and **CALLS ON** AfDB to provide leadership in this regard;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report to the Assembly in January 2009, on progress achieved in the effective establishment of the Fund which should be launched by the end of July 2009.

EX.CL/Dec.446 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION Doc. EX.CL/409(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of previous decisions of the Policy organs of the Union;

2. **REQUESTS** the Commission as follows:

   i) Carry out an exhaustive inventory of the decisions so far adopted but have not been implemented;

   ii) Establish an order of priority in the implementation of the decisions referred to in para. (i) above, and mobilize additional resources for their implementation;

   iii) Calculate and provide the financial implications of the implementation of the decisions referred to in para. (i) above.

3. **REITERATES ITS REQUEST** to the Commission to provide cost implication for future decisions to be adopted by the policy organs of the Union;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to fast-track the study on the establishment of the Pan-African Radio and Television Station;

5. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to adopt decisions on the basis of the widest possible consensus.

EX.CL/Dec.447 (XIII)

DECISION ON WOMEN'S PRE-SUMMIT

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the conclusions and recommendations of the Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) and Member States which took place in Sharm El-Sheikh from 21 to 22 June 2008;

2. **FURTHER NOTES** the recommendations from the Pre-Summit meeting on Women's Economic Empowerment held on 23 June 2008, organized in collaboration with the Commission;

3. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH SATISFACTION** the holding the 9th Congress of the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 17 to 18 February 2008 with the support of the Commission;

4. **RECOMMENDS** the holding of a second Heads of State and Government debate on gender equality within the context of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);

5. **TAKES NOTE** of the International Colloquium on Women in Peace and Security, under the leadership of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, to be held in March 2009;

6. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to participate in the International Colloquium;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to lend its support to the organization of this colloquium.

EX.CL/Dec.448 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT Doc. EX.CL/423(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the recommendations contained therein;

2. **AUTHORIZES** PAP to establish and operationalize a trust fund to provide supplementary funds to support its activities;

3. **DECIDES** to establish a joint Forum comprising the Chairperson of the Commission and the Heads of all the other organs of the Union in order to ensure that they synergise their programmes and activities.

EX.CL/Dec.449 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2007 DOC.EX.CL/445 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) for the year 2007;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** with the progress made by AfCHPR in the operationalization of its activities;

3. **AUTHORISES** AfCHPR to submit in 2009 a new structure of the Registry and new proposals concerning the status of the Judges;

4. **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and to **ADHERE** to the declaration recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court to receive petitions from individuals and non-governmental organizations;

5. **REQUESTS** the United Republic of Tanzania, hosting the Headquarters of the AfCHPR, in collaboration with the Commission, to take all the necessary steps to avail the AfCHPR, as soon as possible, with an operational structure, in conformity with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement.

EX.CL/Dec.450 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE MID-YEAR SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION Doc. EX.CL/426 (XIII) Add.1

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal made by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the mid-year sessions of the Assembly of the African Union;

2. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly that the status quo be maintained.

EX.CL/Dec.451 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JULY 2010 IN KAMPALA, UGANDA
Doc. EX.CL/426 (XII) Add. 2

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the offer made by the Republic of Uganda to host the ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda;

2. **DECIDES** to refer the proposal to the Assembly for consideration.

EX.CL/Dec.452 (XIII)

DECISION ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission, the briefing by the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) on the political developments in Zimbabwe;

2. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the prevailing situation and the implications for political stability as well as its humanitarian consequences;

3. **DEPLORES** the violence and the loss of life that has occurred in Zimbabwe that preceded the presidential run off elections;

4. **WELCOMES** the visit undertaken by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Jean Ping, to Harare and **SUPPORTS** the efforts deployed by SADC through President Mbeki, Regional Mediator and other leaders of the Region in assisting the parties in Zimbabwe to find a peaceful and lasting solution;

5. **WELCOMES** the deployment of observers from SADC, the African Union (AU), and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);

6. **CALLS ON** all parties to exercise restraint, refrain from any acts of violence and prevail on their supporters to put an immediate end to the use of violence and intimidation;

7. **URGES** the parties to commit themselves to a peaceful solution to the current situation through dialogue;

8. **STRESSES** that all parties work together towards finding a lasting solution.

EX.CL/Dec. 453 (XIII)

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM DOC. EX.CL/449(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;

3. **DECIDES** to endorse the following candidatures:

   (i) The Arab Republic of Egypt for one of the two (2) seats reserved for Africa in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for the 2008-2010 period;

   (ii) The Republic of Burkina Faso for one of the two (2) seats reserved for Africa in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for the 2008-2010 period;

   (iii) Republic of Uganda for a Non-Permanent Seat on the UN Security Council for 2009-2010;

   (iv) Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa, for the post of Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in the event that the incumbent Director General, Mr. Mohamed El Baradei of Egypt decides not to avail himself for the next term;

   (v) Dr. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf of Somalia, as Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), at elections which will take place during the session of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council scheduled to be held in October 2008;

   (vi) Egypt and Tunisia, for re-election to the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU);

   (vii) Burkina Faso and Libya, for seats on the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU);

   (viii) Mr. Gilbert Houngbo of Togo, for the post of President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);

   (ix) Mr. Fatih Bouayad-Agha of Algeria, for a new term at the International Public Service Commission for the 2009-2010 period, at elections to be held during the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly;

   (x) Chief Michael Kaase Aondoakaa SAN, of Nigeria, for the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), at the elections of UNIDROIT Governing Board to be held in Rome, Italy;

(xi) Mr. Pollar Awich of Uganda, for a seat on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, at elections to be held in New York in November 2008;

(xii) Ambassador Ahmed Amin Fathalla of Egypt, to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, at elections to be held in September 2008.

4. **DECIDES** that the candidatures of Nigeria and Sierra Leone for non-permanent seats on the United Nations (UN) Security Council will be considered at subsequent sessions of the Ministerial Committee prior to the elections;

5. **ALSO DECIDES** to endorse the following candidatures:

(i) Mr. Rajoomer Lallah of Mauritius, for re-election for membership of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for the period 2009-2010, during elections due to be held in New York in September 2008;

(ii) Mr. El Hadji Lamine Moctar Bousso of Senegal, for membership of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for the period 2009-2010, during elections to be held in New York in September 2008;

(iii) Mr. Bouzid Lashari of Algeria, for membership of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for the period 2009-2010, during elections taking place in New York in September 2008;

(iv) Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe of Senegal, for membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, during elections scheduled for New York on 30 July 2008;

(v) Judge Sanji Monageng of the Republic of Botswana, to the position of Judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC) during elections scheduled for January 2009.